

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 TRSE-00 HEW-06 USIA-15 CPR-01

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0490

UNCLAS JIDDA 1639

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, SA

SUBJECT: VISIT TO U.S. BY MINISTRY OF HEALTH OFFICIALS

REF: A. STATE 22240 B. JIDDA 502

1. MARCH 2 DISCUSSION WITH RASHED AL-BAKR, MINISTRY'S DIRECTOR OF PLANNING, RESULTED IN FOLLOWING: DATES OF TRIP NOT YET SET; GROUP NOW THINKING IN TERMS OF BEGINNING ROUND-THE-WORLD TOUR (WESTERN EUROPE, U.S., JAPAN, AND PAKISTAN) AROUND THE BEGINNING OF APRIL. PURPOSE OF TRIP IS GENERAL FAMILIARIZATION WITH MODERN HEALTH CARE PRACTICES, BUT AREAS OF SPECIAL INTEREST INCLUDE TRAINING OF PARAMEDICAL PERSONNEL; HOSPITAL CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE; INVENTORY SYSTEMS (REFERENCE WAS MADE TO U.S. ARMY'S "OUTSTANDING" INVENTORY SYSTEM); AND OPERATIONS OF PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS.

2. DOUBT WHETHER FIRM ITINERARY WILL BE AVAILABLE VERY MUCH BEFORE GROUP'S DEPARTURE; HOWEVER, INTERVENING EUROPEAN VISITS SHOULD HELP WITH LEAD TIME. STRONGLY SUSPECT THAT PRESENTATION OF A CONCRETE TENTATIVE PROGRAM MIGHT HELP TO CATALYZE A FIRING UP OF GROUP'S TRAVEL PLANS; THAT IS, THAT THEY WILL NOT BE SURE OF WHAT THEY WANT TO DO, OR FOR HOW LONG, UNTIL WE TELL THEM. FROM COMMERCIAL POINT OF VIEW, IT ALSO SHOULD HELP TO MAXIMIZE

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THEIR EXPOSURE TO U.S. HEALTH-RELATED BUSINESS

AT EXPENSE OF THE EUROPEANS IF WE CAN PROVIDE
INCENTIVE TO RUSH THROUGH EUROPEAN SEGMENT IN ORDER
TO TAKE UP WELL-DEFINED U.S. PROGRAM.

3. REF A, PARA 3; DO NOT CONTEMPLATE SPECIFIC
ROLE FOR USIA OTHER THAN MEDIA COVERAGE. REFERENCE
IN PARA 3 OF REF B SHOULD HAVE BEEN TO CU RATHER
THAN USIA.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: DEVELOPMENT ASAP OF A
SPECIFIC PROGRAM FOR US TO PRESENT TO MINISTRY.
IT NEED NOT BE FIRM OR EVEN CLEARED WITH ALL
ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED, BUT WILL BE PRESENTED
TO MINISTRY AS TENTATIVE SUGGESTIONS SUBJECT TO
CHANGE. AS SAUDIS ARE MORE ACCUSTOMED TO DEALING
WITH PERSONALITIES THAN ORGANIZATIONS, NAME OF
INITIAL CONTACT FOR GROUP UPON ARRIVAL IN THE
U.S. WOULD ALSO BE HELPFUL IN CONCRETIZING REALITY
OF VISIT FOR THEM. SUGGEST PROGRAM BEGIN WITH A
DUMMY ETA IN THE U.S. OF APRIL 14.
AKINS

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